

MNM Fatal 2007-06

- Powered Haulage Accident
- April 3, 2007 (Missouri)
- Lead – Zinc Operation
- Haul Truck Driver
- 40 years old
- 1 ½ years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when the haul truck he was operating left the road and overturned. He was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.



Root Causes

- Work policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that all braking systems on the haul truck were maintained in a functional condition.
- Work policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that a haul truck was operated on grades compatible with the truck's specifications. The operator's manual, indicating appropriate grades for various payloads, was not available on the truck.
- Work policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that berms or guardrails were provided where a drop-off existed of sufficient grade or depth to cause a vehicle to overturn.
- The driver of the haul truck failed to wear his seat belt while operating the truck.

Best Practices

- Establish traffic rules requiring mobile equipment to be operated in the appropriate gear at speeds and payloads consistent with grades, conditions of the roadway, and the experience level of the drivers.
- Ensure adequate pre-operational checks are conducted and the retarding and braking systems are properly maintained and will stop and hold the mobile equipment.
- Task training for equipment operators should include a thorough review of the manufacturer's Operator's Manual and all warnings should be adhered to.
- Monitor regularly, to ensure equipment operators utilize seat belts at all times.
- Ensure that adequate berms of mid-axle height are provided for roadways where a drop off exists.